

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

DEC 26 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. **(Currently amended)** A method of forming a ceramic body with nanostructures on at
2 least one surface thereof, the method comprising:
 - 3 (a) compressing ceramic particulate at a pressure sufficient to form a solid body;
 - 4 (b) sintering the solid body at a temperature and for a period sufficient to bond the
5 particulate in the solid body into one or more ceramic crystals;
 - 6 (c) exposing the solid body to a reducing environment at a temperature
7 substantially greater than 105 degrees Fahrenheit and for a period sufficient to
8 form nanostructures on at least a portion of the exterior surface of the solid body.
- 1 2. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ceramic particulate
2 further comprises titania.
- 1 3. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the reducing environment
2 further comprises a hydrogen-containing gas flowing over the solid body at a sufficient
3 gas flow rate to form said nanostructures.
- 1 4. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said pressure is greater
2 than about 0 MPa.

1 5. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said pressure is about 400
2 MPa.

1 6. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the step of sintering is
2 carried out at a temperature of less than 1,400 degrees Celsius.

1 7. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 6, wherein the step of sintering is
2 carried out at a temperature of about 1,200 degrees Celsius.

1 8. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 7, wherein the step of sintering is
2 carried out for about 6 hours.

1 9. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the hydrogen-containing
2 gas further comprises a majority inert gas and a minority hydrogen-containing gas.

1 10. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the hydrogen-containing
2 gas is hydrogen.

1 11. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the hydrogen-containing
2 gas is water.

1 12. **(Currently amended)** The method in accordance with claim 9, wherein the step of
2 ~~heat treating~~exposing is carried out at a temperature of about 700 degrees Celsius.

1 13. **(Currently amended)** The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein the step of
2 ~~heat treating~~exposing is carried out for a period of about 8 hours.

1 14. **(Currently amended)** The method in accordance with claim ~~13~~, wherein the step of
2 ~~heat treating~~exposing is carried out at a hydrogen-containing gas flow rate between about
3 100 and about 500 milliliters per minute.

1 15. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein the flow rate is at least
2 about 500 milliliters per minute.

1 16. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein the nanostructures
2 formed further comprise nanofibers.

1 17. **(Withdrawn)** The ceramic body produced according to the process of claim 1.

1 18. **(Currently amended)** A method of forming a metal oxide body with nanostructures
2 on at least one surface thereof, the method comprising:

3 (a) compressing metal oxide particulate at a pressure greater than 0 MPa to form a
4 solid body;

5 (b) sintering the solid body in air at a temperature of less than 1,400 degrees
6 Celsius; and then
7 (c) heat treating the solid body in a gas mixture containing a majority of an inert
8 gas and a minority of a hydrogen-containing gas at a temperature substantially
9 greater than 105 degrees Fahrenheit and at a gas flow rate, a temperature and for a
10 period sufficient to cause nanostructures to form on at least a portion of the
11 exterior surface of the solid body.

1 19. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the nanostructures
2 formed further comprise nanofibers.

1 20. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein said pressure is about
2 400 MPa.

1 21. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the step of sintering is
2 carried out at a temperature of about 1,200 degrees Celsius.

1 22. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 21, wherein the step of sintering is
2 carried out for about 6 hours.

1 23. (Original) The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the inert gas is nitrogen.

1 24. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the hydrogen-
2 containing gas is hydrogen.

1 25. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the hydrogen-
2 containing gas is water.

1 26. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein said gas flow rate is
2 between about 100 and about 500 milliliters per minute.

1 27. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 26, wherein the gas flow rate is at
2 least about 500 milliliters per minute.

1 28. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 18, wherein the step of heat treating
2 is carried out at a temperature of about 700 degrees Celsius.

1 29. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 28, wherein the step of heat treating
2 is carried out for a period of about 8 hours.

1 30. **(Withdrawn)** The metal oxide body produced according to the process of claim 18.

1 31. **(Original)** A method of forming a titania body with nanofibers on at least one surface
2 thereof, the method comprising:

- 3 (a) compressing titania particulate at a pressure of about 400 MPa to form a solid
4 body;
5 (b) sintering the solid body in air at a temperature between about 1,100 and about
6 1,400 degrees Celsius for about 6 hours; and then
7 (c) heat treating the solid body in gas containing about 95 percent inert gas and
8 about 5 percent hydrogen with a gas flow rate between about 100 and about 500
9 milliliters per minute and a gas temperature of about 700 degrees Celsius.

1 32. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 31, wherein the step of sintering is
2 carried out at a temperature of about 1,200 degrees Celsius.

1 33. **(Original)** The method in accordance with claim 31, wherein the flow rate is at least
2 about 500 milliliters per minute.

1 34. **(Withdrawn)** The titania body produced according to the process of claim 31.

1 35. **(Withdrawn)** A titania solid body having a plurality of fibers on the surface thereof,
2 said fibers having a diameter in a range from about 15 nanometers to about 50
3 nanometers.

1 36. **(Withdrawn)** The titania solid body in accordance with claim 35, wherein the titania
2 is the rutile phase.

1 37. **(Withdrawn)** The titania solid body in accordance with claim 35, wherein the solid
2 body contains a plurality of titania crystals.

1 38. **(Withdrawn)** The titania solid body in accordance with claim 35, further comprising
2 a pair of electrically conductive bodies having opposite electrical polarity mounted to the
3 body.

1 39. **(Withdrawn)** A sensor comprising:

2 (a) a titania solid body having a plurality of fibers on the surface thereof, said
3 fibers having diameters in a range between about 15 and about 50 nanometers;
4 and

5 (b) a resistance measuring means electrically connected to the solid body.